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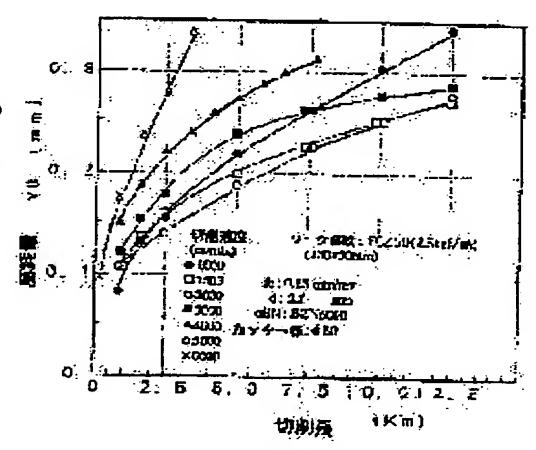
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# (54) HIGH SPEED CUTTING WORK METHOD FOR DIE AND SUPERHIGH SPEED MILLING DEVICE USING THIS METHOD

#### (57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To solve various problematic points in the past and shorten a die machining time, by remarkably increasing a rotational speed and a feed speed of a cutting tool, also reciprocating a feed program of the tool. SOLUTION: A heat resistant tool, for instance, a single small diametric ball end mill 12 formed of cBN is rotated at a 5 to 200,000rpm high speed and reciprocated horizontally at a 10 to 100m/min high speed, the ball end mill is laterally moved in both end parts of reciprocating motion by a prescribed cutting amount in a horizontal surface to a direction orthogonal to a reciprocating direction, and cut by the same depth of cut, in the same surface and is vertically fed in a perpendicular direction by a prescribed depth of cut, so as to work a die shape by a high speed rotating/reciprocating motion of the single small diametric ball end mill.



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#### **CLAIMS**

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The single minor diameter ball end mill which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance is rotated at the high speed of 50,000 - 200,000rpm. This ball end mill is made to reciprocate at the high speed of 10 - 100 m/min horizontally. Horizontal migration is made to carry out in the direction which intersects perpendicularly in the both-way direction at the both ends of reciprocation in the amount of infeeds predetermined in a horizontal plane, the inside of the same side is cut by the same infeed depth, and, subsequently to the direction of a vertical, longitudinal feed of the ball end mill is carried out by predetermined infeed depth. And by this The high-speed-cutting processing approach of the mold characterized by what a three-dimension mold configuration is processed for by high-speed rotation and high-speed reciprocation of a single minor diameter ball end mill.

[Claim 2] The type according to claim 1 characterized by what the inside of this same field is relatively cut for with a reduced feed along with the contour line of a periphery profile by the same infeed depth before high-speed reciprocation cutting in said same side of the high-speed-cutting processing approach.

[Claim 3] The single minor diameter ball end mill which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance, and the RF motor made to rotate this ball end mill at the high speed of 50,000 – 200,000rpm, 3 shaft driving gear made to move the high-speed bearing which supports the ball end mill which carries out high-speed rotation, and a ball end mill to 3 shaft orientations of the Z-axis perpendicular to the X-axis and the Y-axis which intersect perpendicularly in a horizontal plane, It has NC control unit which carries out numerical control of this 3 shaft driving gear. Said 3 shaft driving gear Only the X-axis can reciprocate now at the high speed of 10 – 100 m/min. With said NC control unit Make a ball end mill reciprocate to X shaft orientations at high speed, and Y shaft orientations are made to carry out horizontal migration in the predetermined amount of infeeds in the both ends of reciprocation. Ultra high-speed mealing equipment which cuts the inside of the same field by the same infeed depth, subsequently to Z shaft orientations, carries out longitudinal feed of the ball end mill by predetermined infeed depth, and is characterized by what this processes a three-dimension mold configuration for by high-speed rotation and high-speed reciprocation of a single minor diameter ball end mill.

[Claim 4] High-speed reciprocation of said X-axis is ultra high-speed mealing equipment according to claim 3 characterized by the thing by linear motor drive.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the ultra high-speed mealing equipment which used the high-speed-cutting processing approach and this approach of a mold. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] Many machine parts are fabricated using metal mold, and metal mold is indispensable in order to manufacture the machine part of high quality in large quantities and cheaply. On the other hand, manufacture of the metal mold itself should require the former and a long period of time, and costs should have started. However, compaction and cost reduction of a metal mold manufacture period are strongly demanded as low production becomes common and a goods cycle short-period-izes.

[0003] Conventionally, die making is performed in order, such as a design, mold processing, – finishing with a group, and a try, correction. Among these, although it has come to be able to perform the design itself comparatively by development of CAD, molding simulation, etc. for a short period of time, as for current, most much time amount is spent on NC programming and mold processing for mold processing.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Although the great portion of mold processing is milling by the end mill, in mold processing with many complicated configurations, if roughing is removed, the diameter of a tool cannot be enlarged, but the light cutting by the minor diameter tool takes the lead. Therefore, there is a trouble that a cutting time becomes [delivery] small for a long time. Although what is necessary is to raise the rotational speed of a cutting tool and just to carry out a feed rate early, in order to shorten this cutting time, therefore, by the conventional processing approach, in this case \*\* There were troubles, such as tool breakage by creation of the endurance of a tool life, \*\* high-speed rotation drive, and \*\* bearing, \*\* tool holder, \*\* rapid-feed device, and \*\* NC tape, heat deformation of \*\* machine tool, generating of the level difference of the cut field by \*\* tool exchange, and the amount increase of cuts of which \*\* expectation is not done.

[0005] If \*\* high-speed rotation and a rapid feed are performed, a tool life will become short and namely, the increase of the exchange frequency of a tool and the tool rotational speed of \*\* former high-speed processing becomes impossible as a result Although 10,000 - 50,000rpm extent can use it by the ball bearing of \*\* former which is thousands of or less rpm and needs to raise this to tens of thousands of or more rpm the high speed beyond it — if — the tool holder of \*\* former which a life cannot use practical short by high-speed rotation of tens of thousands of or more rpm, although a rapid feed is indispensable to \*\* quantity efficiency processing to which the looseness (expansion of a bore) and \*\* balance of the tool pinching section by the centrifugal force pose a problem In the conventional ball screw, 20 - 60 m/min is a limitation. Moreover, when a rapid feed is performed, in order for acceleration / moderation property to become important and to make it accelerate and slow down for a short time, creation of an NC tape has taken considerable time amount even to the \*\* current which a driving gear and a damping device enlarge, and it sets to three conventional five axis controls especially. In order to make the delivery pitch of a tool fine and to cut it, when \*\* high-speed rotation and the rapid feed with which the creation time of an NC tape increases increasingly are performed, by generation of heat from a high-speed driving shaft, temperature increase by plastic working, etc. In metal mold processing which attaches importance to especially dimensional accuracy \*\* which a level difference will produce in a cutting plane and a surface precision error will generate by the anchoring error, the elastic deformation of a tool, and the variation of a tool dimension if \*\* tool it becomes impossible to disregard heat deformation of a machine tool is exchanged, although it generally divides into roughing and finish conventionally and improvement in processing effectiveness is aimed at The amount of cuts of a tool often tended to become large at the time of the finish after roughing, and there was a trouble of \*\* that there was a possibility of causing tool breakage etc.

[0006] This invention is originated in order to solve this trouble. That is, by raising the rotational speed and the feed rate of a cutting tool sharply, the purpose of this invention solves the various troubles mentioned above, and is to offer the ultra high-speed mealing equipment using the high-speed-cutting processing approach and this approach of the mold which can shorten the floor to floor time of a mold sharply by this.

[0007]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The high density sintering cutting tool with which an invention-in-this-application person etc. consists of cBN (cubic boron nitride) fits ultra high-speed mealing of the iron system

metal material for metal mold, and found out from the experiment the unique property that a tool life is prolonged especially for the more nearly high-speed region. This invention uses the applied new property positively, and one minor diameter tool which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance is used for it, and it solves the various troubles which mentioned this tool above high-speed rotation and by carrying out a rapid feed.

[0008] Namely, according to this invention, the single minor diameter ball end mill which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance is rotated at the high speed of 50,000 – 200,000rpm. This ball end mill is made to reciprocate at the high speed of 10 – 100 m/min horizontally. Horizontal migration is made to carry out in the direction which intersects perpendicularly in the both—way direction at the both ends of reciprocation in the amount of infeeds predetermined in a horizontal plane, the inside of the same side is cut by the same infeed depth, and, subsequently to the direction of a vertical, longitudinal feed of the ball end mill is carried out by predetermined infeed depth. And by this The high—speed—cutting processing approach of the mold characterized by what a three—dimension mold configuration is processed for by high—speed rotation and high—speed reciprocation of a single minor diameter ball end mill is offered.

[0009] Since the single minor diameter ball end mill which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance is rotated at the high speed of 50,000 - 200,000rpm according to the approach of above-mentioned this invention, metal mold with a complicated configuration or the small R section is processible. Moreover, a work-piece front face can be cut in a high speed and high efficiency by making this minor diameter ball end mill reciprocate at the high speed of 10 - 100 m/min horizontally. Furthermore, since the infeed depth by the ball end mill since the inside of the same side is cut by the same infeed depth by high-speed reciprocation and a ball end mill is sent in the direction of a vertical by predetermined infeed depth subsequently to the direction of a vertical is held always almost uniformly and cut, it is easy to hold cutting conditions to the optimal field, and it can prolong the life of a tool. Moreover, since a high-speed shaft is only reciprocation, creation of NC program is simplified and NC control of real time while creating data by computer is attained. Since current and NC programming have taken remarkable long duration, large compaction of NC programming time amount contributes to reduction of metal mold manufacture time amount as a whole. Furthermore, since it is processed with a single minor diameter ball end mill, the anchoring error by tool exchange and the problem of the variation in a tool dimension are lost. Moreover, roughing and finish are fair, since it is processed for every same flat surface by the single tool at high speed, there is no sudden change of the amount of cuts of the tool by the excessive shaving remnants by roughing, it is easy to hold infeed depth uniformly, and there is little fear of tool breakage. Moreover, the tool breakage by the variation in the amount of tool cuts by the mistake of NC program can also be prevented.

[0010] According to the desirable operation gestalt of this invention, before high-speed reciprocation cutting in said same side, the inside of this same field is relatively cut with a reduced feed along with the contour line of a periphery profile by the same infeed depth. By this approach, since it cuts with a reduced feed relatively, it can follow in footsteps of NC data, and a program can also be easily generated on real time automatically. Moreover, although a tool load becomes large and a rapid feed becomes difficult only by both-way processing since it becomes recessing at the time of the first pass, the load at the time of a subsequent rapid feed can be sharply reduced by performing periphery processing by the contour-line profile by low-speed delivery relatively first before a rapid feed. Furthermore, in order to send along with the contour line of a periphery profile, even if there are few periphery wall surfaces, the surface roughness of a hoop direction improves sharply. Moreover, going too far by rapid halt at the time of a rapid feed can be avoided, and the effect of a tool halt position error can be lost.

[0011] Moreover, the single minor diameter ball end mill which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance according to this invention, The RF motor made to rotate this ball end mill at the high speed of 50,000 – 200,000rpm, 3 shaft driving gear made to move the high-speed bearing which supports the ball end mill which carries out high-speed rotation, and a ball end mill to 3 shaft orientations of the Z-axis perpendicular to the X-axis and the Y-axis which intersect perpendicularly in a horizontal plane, It has NC control unit which carries out numerical control of this 3 shaft driving gear. Said 3 shaft driving gear Only the X-axis can reciprocate now at the high speed of 10 – 100 m/min. With said NC control unit Make a minor diameter ball end mill reciprocate to X shaft orientations at high speed, and Y shaft orientations are made to carry out horizontal migration in the predetermined amount of infeeds in the both ends of reciprocation. The ultra high-speed mealing equipment which cuts the inside of the same field by the same infeed depth, subsequently to Z shaft orientations, carries out longitudinal feed of the ball end mill by predetermined infeed depth, and is characterized by what this processes a three-dimension mold configuration for by high-speed rotation and high-speed reciprocation of a single minor diameter ball end mill is offered. Although high-speed reciprocation of said X-axis of this invention is usually based on a ball screw, according to the more desirable operation gestalt, it is based on a linear motor drive.

[0012] According to the configuration of above-mentioned this invention, since infeed depth is held uniformly and processed by high-speed rotation of a minor diameter ball end mill, even if it makes infeed depth small, high-speed processing is possible, and since a load can be made small, support by high-speed bearing and the high-speed rotation by the RF motor are attained. Moreover, since it is used without exchanging a single minor diameter ball end mill, a lightweight and small tool holder can be used and the looseness of the tool pinching section and the problem of \*\* balance by the centrifugal force can be avoided. Furthermore, since only

reciprocation of X shaft orientations is made into a high speed, by making lightweight only the head section which carries out the rotation drive of the ball end mill, a rapid feed and acceleration / moderation property can be raised, and it can accelerate and slow down with a comparatively small driving gear in a short time. Furthermore, since a high-speed shaft is only reciprocation, even if it makes the delivery pitch of a tool fine, creation of NC program is simplified and NC control of real time while creating data by computer is attained. Moreover, since long duration continuation of high-speed rotation and the rapid feed is carried out without exchanging a single minor diameter ball end mill, the calorific value under operation becomes almost fixed, and cutting which heat balance was saturated and was stabilized on the contrary can be performed. Moreover, since it is processed with a single minor diameter ball end mill, and there is neither an anchoring error by tool exchange nor a problem of the variation in a tool dimension, and roughing and finish are fair and it is processed for every same flat surface at high speed, there is no sudden change of the amount of cuts of a tool, it is easy to hold infeed depth uniformly, and there is little fear of tool breakage.

[0013]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Hereafter, the desirable operation gestalt of radical Motohara \*\* of this invention and this invention is explained with reference to a drawing. <u>Drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> are the experimental results by an invention—in—this—application person etc., and are the result of carrying out mealing processing of the iron system metal material for metal mold (work piece) by ultra high—speed with the high density sintering cutting tool which consists of cBN (cubic boron nitride).

[0014] <u>Drawing 1</u> shows the relation between the length of cut at the time of changing cutting speed, and the amount of wear. The conventional cutting speed in mealing processing is 200 - 500 m/min, and is examined by this trial at the conventional rate of 5 to 10 times or more. From this drawing, there are so few amounts of wear that cutting speed becomes a high speed, namely, the more nearly high-speed region shows the unique property that a tool life is prolonged in the speed range of 1000 - 3000 m/min.

[0015] <u>Drawing 2</u> is the same drawing as <u>drawing 1</u> at the time of changing the rotational speed of a tool (minor diameter ball end mill). Conventionally, the tool rotational speed in mealing processing is 3 – 4000rpm, and is examined by one 20 times [5 to] the conventional rate of this by this trial. The property whose amount of wear decreases is shown, so that cutting speed becomes a high speed from this drawing like <u>drawing 1</u> with the rotational speed of 35,000 or more rpm.

[0016] the above from the result of <u>drawing 1</u> and <u>drawing 2</u> — a new property is used positively, one minor diameter tool which consists of cBN(s) is used, the various troubles which mentioned this tool above high-speed rotation and by carrying out a rapid feed are solved, and ultra high-speed mealing becomes possible. A property with the same said of the tool material which performed heat-resistant coating besides cBN can be given.

[0017] Drawing 3 is the mimetic diagram showing the future view of mealing processing. Mealing processing in metal mold processing is progressing from the importance every day, and is accelerated even before and after about 200 m/min by current from the cutting speed of 30 – 50 m/min in the past. On the other hand, delivery (cutting depth) is increasing slightly with improvement in the speed. Ultra high-speed mealing before and behind about 1000 m/min is expected to be attained by future technological innovation further four to 500 m/min by the future when cutting speed is near in the future. In addition, a cut (cutting depth) is considered to become small rather from the need for precision processing. This invention offers one means for attaining ultra high-speed mealing on the radical of this view.

[0018] <u>Drawing 4</u> is the whole ultra high-speed mealing equipment block diagram using the approach by this invention. In this drawing the ultra high-speed mealing equipment 10 of this invention. The single minor diameter ball end mill 12 which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance, The RF motor 14 made to rotate a ball end mill 12 at the high speed of 50,000 - 200,000rpm, It has 3 shaft driving gear 18 made to move the high-speed bearing 16 which supports the ball end mill 12 which carries out high-speed rotation, and a ball end mill 12 to 3 shaft orientations of the Z-axis perpendicular to the X-axis and the Y-axis which intersect perpendicularly in a horizontal plane, and the NC control unit 20 which carries out numerical control of the 3 shaft driving gear 18. The perpendicular Z-axis has the method to which a table side is moved as shown in this drawing, and the method which moves the slide section 21 of the X-axis in the vertical direction. In addition, 1 is a work piece (cut material) in this drawing.

[0019] The high density sintering cBN is used for a ball end mill 12. cBN (cubic boron nitride) which appeared as a new cutting tool material has thermal resistance, its toughness is high and its chipping generating has decreased. By the above-mentioned trial using this high density cBN tool, ultra high-speed mealing of 2000 – 3000 m/min is [ in die steel ] possible at 1000 – 1500 m/min and cast iron. In addition, a ball end mill 12 may be tool material which has high thermal resistance other than cBN. For example, the tool which performed multilayer ceramic coating to the usual cemented carbide \*\*\*\*, or a ceramic tool may be improved.

[0020] A ball end mill 12 is rotated focusing on the Z-axis in this drawing, it is attached in susceptor through the high-speed bearing 16, and this susceptor reciprocates to X shaft orientations at a high speed. In the surface finish of metal mold, the ball end mill of the minor diameter whose tip is about 2–10mm is most suitable. Moreover, in order to realize cutting speed of the high speed mentioned above with this minor diameter ball end mill 12, the rotational frequency of a main shaft needs 50,000 – 200,000rpm. In order to realize this high-speed rotation, pneumatic bearing 16 is used for the equipment of this invention as the RF motor 14 and high-speed bearing. According to this configuration, since high-speed rotation of the minor

diameter ball end mill 12 is carried out, it is minute and cutting force is small, support by pneumatic bearing 16 and the high-speed rotation of the amount of infeeds per one cutting edge by the RF motor 14 are attained. In addition, the high-speed bearing 16 may be pneumatic bearing, a magnetic bearing, or a high-speed ball bearing that used the ceramic.

[0021] As for 3 shaft driving gear 18, only the X-axis can reciprocate now at the high speed of 10 - 100 m/min. In order for the rapid feed of a main shaft to realize sudden acceleration and sudden moderation and to realize exact positioning moreover, lightweight-izing of the moving part of a main shaft is important. Therefore, in this invention, a high-speed feed shaft makes it only one shaft among three shafts (only in case of X-axis), and biaxial [ other ] (a Y-axis and Z-axis) is taken as a reduced feed. In addition, in drawing 4, although 3 shaft driving gear 18 is a gantry mold, this invention may not be limited to this but may be other vertical molds or horizontal types of a format. Moreover, although it is common to use a ball screw as for high-speed reciprocation of the X-axis, its thing by linear motor drive is desirable.

[0022] The configuration mentioned above can raise a rapid feed and acceleration / moderation property, and it can accelerate and slow down with a comparatively small driving gear in a short time. Moreover, since cutting force is small, a high-speed feed shaft (X-axis) may be lightweight-ized, and may have some reduction of rigidity. Thereby, in spite of being able to perform high-speed processing, equipment can be lightweight-ized comparatively and cost can be reduced.

[0023] <u>Drawing 5</u> is drawing showing typically the high-speed-cutting processing approach of the mold by this invention. In this drawing, (A) is a side-face sectional view and shows the motion of the X-axis of the minor diameter ball end mill 12 and the Z-axis to a work piece 1. Moreover, (B) is a top view and shows the motion of the X-axis of the minor diameter ball end mill 12 and the Y-axis to a work piece 1. Furthermore, (C) shows typically the locus of the minor diameter ball end mill 12 within the same flat surface.

[0024] As shown in drawing 5, according to the approach of this invention, the single minor diameter ball end mill 12 which consists of tool material which has high thermal resistance is rotated at the high speed of 50,000 – 200,000rpm. A ball end mill 12 is made to reciprocate at the high speed of 10 – 100 m/min horizontally. Horizontal migration is made to carry out in the direction which intersects perpendicularly in the both—way direction at the both ends of reciprocation in the amount of infeeds predetermined in a horizontal plane, the inside of the same side is cut by the same infeed depth, and, subsequently to the direction of a vertical, longitudinal feed of the ball end mill 12 is carried out by predetermined infeed depth. And by this A three-dimension mold configuration is processed by high-speed rotation and high-speed reciprocation of a single minor diameter ball end mill.

[0025] That is, with the NC control device 20, make the single minor diameter ball end mill 12 reciprocate to X shaft orientations at high speed, and Y shaft orientations are made to carry out horizontal migration in the predetermined amount of infeeds in the both ends of reciprocation, the inside of the same field is cut by the same infeed depth, and, subsequently to Z shaft orientations, longitudinal feed of the ball end mill is carried out by predetermined infeed depth. In addition, since the cutting waste generated by cutting becomes powdered, it can be processed easily in vacuum suction or Ayr Blois.

[0026] By this configuration, NC data of cutting serve as a method which smears away a surface to be machined by both-way delivery of one shaft. This can utilize the software as it is exactly in accordance with the scanning program of the light beam in the Mitsuzo form (Laser Stereo Lithography). Furthermore, NC data of cutting can also be immediately obtained from the three-dimensional-CAD data on the front face of metal mold directly on real time. Therefore, while shortening sharply the time amount which obtains NC data by this invention, the trouble that NC data increase is also conquerable.

[0027] Furthermore, since the field of all metal mold is cut only by one tool, it is not generated but the error by tool exchange can solve most problems of a poor precision by heat deformation of a machine tool further. Moreover, even if a tool uses only one, its hole processing of arbitration is possible also for many perforating processes which accompany metal mold processing by helical delivery of a ball end mill.

[0028] <u>Orawing 6</u> is the mimetic diagram showing another operation gestalt of the high-speed-cutting processing approach of the mold by this invention. With this operation gestalt, before high-speed reciprocation cutting in the same side of a work piece 1, the inside of the same side is relatively cut with a reduced feed along with the contour line of the periphery profile 2 by the same infeed depth, and, subsequently reciprocation cutting 3 is performed at high speed. In respect of others, it is the same as that of <u>drawing 5</u>. By this approach, since cutting of the periphery profile 2 is relatively cut with a reduced feed, it can follow in footsteps of NC data, and a program can also generate it on real time automatically easily. Moreover, since it is no longer recessing as processing at the time of a subsequent rapid feed shows <u>drawing 7</u> (B) by performing relatively according to contour-line profile first to before rapid feed 3 periphery processing 2 although a tool load becomes large since it becomes recessing as only the both-way processing 3 shows to <u>drawing 7</u> (A) at the time of the first pass, and a rapid feed becomes difficult by low-speed delivery, a cutting load can be reduced sharply. Furthermore, in order to send along with the contour line of the periphery profile 2, even if there are few periphery wall surfaces, the surface roughness of a hoop direction improves sharply. Moreover, going too far by rapid halt at the time of a rapid feed can be avoided, and the effect of a tool halt position

[0029] In addition, as for this invention, it is needless to say that it can change variously in the range which is not limited to the example mentioned above and does not deviate from the summary of this invention.

error can be lost.

[0030]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, the ultra high-speed mealing equipment using the high-speed-cutting processing approach and this approach of a mold of this invention can solve the various troubles in the conventional metal mold processing, can raise the rotational speed and the feed rate of a cutting tool sharply, can shorten metal mold floor to floor time sharply by this, and it not only shortens the lead time of metal mold manufacture or new product development, but it can contribute to reduction of metal mold cost, and improvement in metal mold precision greatly.

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#### **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the related Fig. of the length of cut at the time of changing cutting speed, and the amount of wear.

[Drawing 2] It is the related Fig. of the length of cut at the time of changing the rotational speed of a tool, and the amount of wear.

[Drawing 3] It is the mimetic diagram showing the future view of mealing processing.

[Drawing 4] It is the whole ultra high-speed mealing equipment block diagram using the approach by this invention.

[Drawing 5] It is drawing showing typically the high-speed-cutting processing approach of the mold by this invention.

[Drawing 6] It is the mimetic diagram showing another operation gestalt of the high-speed-cutting processing approach of the mold by this invention.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the cutting field by the ball end mill.

[Description of Notations]

- 1 Work Piece
- 2 Periphery Profile Cutting
- 3 Reciprocation Cutting
- 10 Ultra High-speed Mealing Equipment
- 12 Minor Diameter Ball End Mill
- 14 RF Motor
- 16 High-speed Bearing (Pneumatic Bearing)
- 18 3 Shaft Driving Gear
- 20 NC Control Unit

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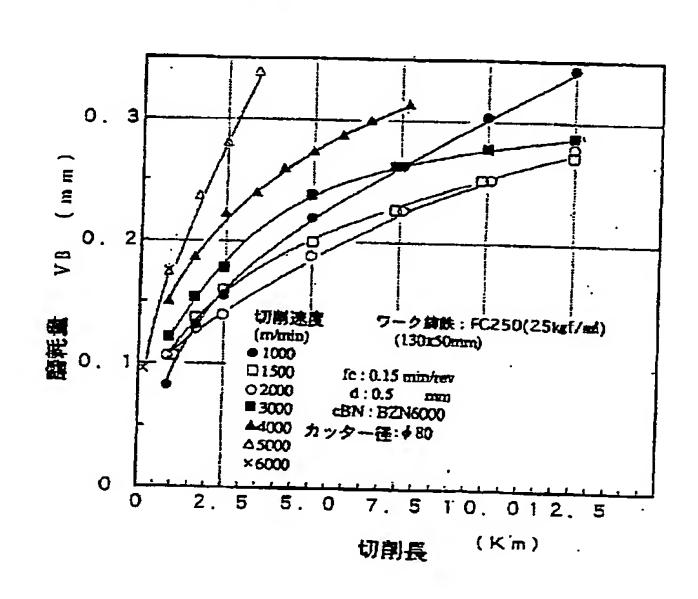
埼玉県和光市広沢2番1号 理化学研究所		
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#### (54) 【発明の名称】 型の高速切削加工方法とこの方法を用いた超高速ミーリング装置

#### (57) 【要約】

【課題】 切削工具の回転速度と送り速度を大幅に高めると共に、工具の送りプログラムを往復動とすることにより、従来の種々の問題点を解決し、これにより型加工時間を大幅に短縮することができる型の高速加工方法とこの方法を用いた超高速ミーリング装置を提供する。

【解決手段】 耐熱性工具、例えば c B N からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミル12を5~20万 r p m の高速で回転させ、ボールエンドミルを水平に10~100 m / m i n の高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部で往復方向に直交する方向に水平面内で所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いで鉛直方向にボールエンドミルを所定の切込み深さで縦送りし、これにより、単一の小径ボールエンドミルの高速回転と高速往復動により型形状を加工する。



#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 高耐熱性を有する工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミルを5~20万rpmの高速で回転させ、該ボールエンドミルを水平に10~100m/minの高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部で往復方向に直交する方向に水平面内で所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いで鉛直方向にボールエンドミルを所定の切込み深さで縦送りし、これにより、単一の小径ボールエンドミルの高速りし、これにより、単一の小径ボールエンドミルの高速を特徴とする型の高速切削加工方法。

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【請求項2】 前記同一面内での高速往復動切削の前に、該同一面内を同一の切込み深さで外周輪郭の等高線に沿って相対的に低速送りで切削する、ことを特徴とする請求項1に記載の型の高速切削加工方法。

【請求項3】 高耐熱性を有する工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミルと、該ボールエンドミルを5~2 O万rpmの高速で回転させる高周波モータと、高速回転するボールエンドミルを支持する高速軸受と、ボールエンドミルを水平面内で直交するX軸及びY軸と鉛直な Z軸の3軸方向に移動させる3軸駆動装置と、該3軸駆動装置を数値制御するNC制御装置と、を備え、

前記3軸駆動装置は、X軸のみが10~100m/minの高速で往復動できるようになっており、前記NC制御装置により、ボールエンドミルをX軸方向に高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部でY軸方向に所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いでZ軸方向にボールエンドミルを所定の切込み深さで縦送りし、これにより、単一の小径ボールエンドミルの高速回転と高速往復動により3次元型形状を加工する、ことを特徴とする超高速ミーリング装置。

【請求項4】 前記×軸の高速往復動は、リニアモータ 駆動による、ことを特徴とする請求項3に記載の超高速 ミーリング装置。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

#### [0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、型の高速切削加工 方法とこの方法を用いた超高速ミーリング装置に関す る。

#### [0002]

【従来の技術】多くの機械部品は、金型を使って成形されており、高品質の機械部品を大量かつ安価に製造するためには金型は不可欠なものとなっている。一方、金型自体の製作は、従来、長期間を要しかつ費用がかかるものとされていた。しかし、少量生産が一般化し、商品サイクルが短期化するにつれ、金型製作期間の短縮とコスト低減が強く要望されている。

【0003】従来、型製作は、設計、型加工、組付・仕上げ、トライ・修正、等の順で行われる。このうち、設計自体は、CADや成形シミュレーション等の発達によ

り、比較的短期間にできるようになっているが、現在は型加工のためのNCプログラミングと、型加工に最も多くの時間が費やされている。

#### [0004]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】型加工の大部分はエンドミルによるフライス加工であるが、複雑な形状の多い型加工では、荒加工を除いては工具径を大きくできず、小径工具による軽切削が中心となる。そのため、送りが小さく切削時間が長くなる問題点がある。従って、この切削時間を短縮するには、切削工具の回転速度を高めて、送り速度を早くすればよいが、この場合に、従来の加工方法では、①工具寿命、②高速回転駆動、③軸受の耐久性、④ツールホルダ、⑤高速送り機構、⑥NCテープの作成、⑦工作機械の熱変形、⑧工具交換による被切削面の段差の発生、⑨予期せぬ切込量増大による工具破損、等の問題点があった。

【0005】すなわち、①高速回転・高速送りを行う と、工具寿命が短くなり、工具の交換頻度が増し、結果 として高速加工ができなくなる、②従来の工具回転速度 は、数千rpm以下であり、これを数万rpm以上に高 める必要がある、③従来のボールベアリングで、1~5 万rpm程度までは使用できるが、それ以上の高速で は、寿命が短く実用的には使用できない、④従来のツー ルホルダは数万грm以上の高速回転では、遠心力によ るツール挟持部のゆるみ(内径の拡大)や動バランスが 問題となる、⑤高能率加工には高速送りが不可欠である が、従来のボールスクリューでは20~60m/min が限界である。また、高速送りを行うと加速・減速特性 が重要となり、短時間で加速・減速させるために駆動装 置や制動装置が大型化する、⑥現在でもNCテープの作 成には相当の時間を要しており、特に、従来の3軸制御 において、工具の送りピッチを細かくして切削するため にNCテープの作成時間がますます増大する、⑦高速回 転・高速送りを行うと、高速駆動軸からの発熱、加工熱 等により、特に寸法精度を重要視する金型加工の場合に は、工作機械の熱変形が無視できなくなる、⑧工具を交 換すると取付け誤差、工具の弾性変形、及び工具寸法の バラツキにより、切断面に段差が生じ表面精度誤差が発 生する、⑨従来、一般に粗加工と仕上加工に分けて加工 効率の向上を図るが、粗加工後の仕上加工時にしばしば 工具の切込量が大きくなりやすく、工具破損等を引き起 こすおそれがある、等の問題点があった。

【0006】本発明は、かかる問題点を解決するために 創案されたものである。すなわち、本発明の目的は、切 削工具の回転速度と送り速度を大幅に高めることによ り、上述した種々の問題点を解決し、これにより型の加 工時間を大幅に短縮することができる型の高速切削加工 方法とこの方法を用いた超高速ミーリング装置を提供す ることにある。

#### [0007]

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【課題を解決するための手段】本願発明者等は、cBN (立方晶窒化ボロン)からなる高密度焼結切削工具が、金型用鉄系金属材の超高速ミーリングに適しており、特に高速域ほど工具寿命が延びる、という特異な特性を実験から見い出した。本発明は、かかる新規の特性を積極的に利用し、高耐熱性を有する工具材からなる1本の小径工具を使用し、この工具を高速回転・高速送りすることにより、上述した種々の問題点を解決するものである。

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【0008】すなわち、本発明によれば、高耐熱性を有する工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミルを5~20万rpmの高速で回転させ、該ボールエンドミルを水平に10~100m/minの高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部で往復方向に直交する方向に水平面内で所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いで鉛直方向にボールエンドミルを所定の切込み深さで縦送りし、これにより、単一の小径ボールエンドミルの高速回転と高速往復動により3次元型形状を加工する、ことを特徴とする型の高速切削加工方法が提供される。

【0009】上記本発明の方法によれば、高耐熱性を有 する工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミルを5~ 20万rpmの高速で回転させるので、複雑形状や小さ なR部を持つ金型を加工することができる。また、この 小径ボールエンドミルを水平に10~100m/min の高速で往復動させることにより、ワーク表面を高速か つ高能率に切削することができる。更に、高速の往復動 により同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いで鉛 直方向にボールエンドミルを所定の切込み深さで鉛直方 向に送るので、ポールエンドミルによる切込み深さを常 にほぼ一定に保持して切削するので、切削条件を最適領 域に保持することが容易であり、工具の寿命を延ばすこ とができる。また、高速軸は往復動だけなので、NCプ ログラムの作成が単純化され、コンピュータによりデー タを作成しながらのリアルタイムのNC制御が可能とな る。現在、NCプログラム作成にはかなりの長時間を要 しているので、NCプログラム作成時間の大幅な短縮は 全体として金型製作時間の削減に貢献する。更に、単一 の小径ボールエンドミルで加工することから、工具交換 による取付け誤差や工具寸法のバラツキの問題がなくな る。また粗加工と仕上加工の区別なく、単一工具で同一 平面毎に高速で加工するので、粗加工による過大な削り 残しによる工具の切込量の急変がなく、切込み深さを一 定に保持しやすく、工具破損のおそれが少ない。また、 NCプログラムのミスによる工具切込量のバラツキによ る工具破損も防ぐことができる。

【0010】本発明の好ましい実施形態によれば、前記同一面内での高速往復動切削の前に、該同一面内を同の切込み深さで外周輪郭の等高線に沿って相対的に低速送りで切削する。この方法により、相対的に低速送りで

切削するため、NCデータに追随でき、かつプログラムも簡単に自動でリアルタイムに生成することができる。また、往復加工のみでは最初のパス時に溝加工となるため工具負荷が大きくなり高速送りが困難になるが、高速送り前に、先ず等高線輪郭による外周加工を相対的に低速の送りで行うことにより、その後の高速送り時の負荷を大幅に低減できる。更に、外周輪郭の等高線に沿って送るため、外周壁面の少なくとも周方向の表面粗さが大幅に向上する。また、高速送り時の急速停止による行き過ぎを回避し、工具停止位置誤差の影響をなくすことができる。

【0011】また、本発明によれば、高耐熱性を有する 工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミルと、該ボー ルエンドミルを5~20万 r p mの高速で回転させる高 周波モータと、高速回転するボールエンドミルを支持す る高速軸受と、ボールエンドミルを水平面内で直交する X軸及びY軸と鉛直なZ軸の3軸方向に移動させる3軸 駆動装置と、該3軸駆動装置を数値制御するNC制御装 置と、を備え、前記3軸駆動装置は、X軸のみが10~ 100m/minの高速で往復動できるようになってお り、前記NC制御装置により、小径ボールエンドミルを X軸方向に高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部でY 軸方向に所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同 一の切込み深さで切削し、次いでZ軸方向にボールエン ドミルを所定の切込み深さで縦送りし、これにより、単 ーの小径ボールエンドミルの高速回転と高速往復動によ り3次元型形状を加工する、ことを特徴とする超高速ミ ーリング装置が提供される。本発明の前記X軸の高速往 復動は、通常はボールスクリューによるが、より好まし い実施形態によれば、リニアモータ駆動による。

【0012】上記本発明の構成によれば、小径ボールエ ンドミルの高速回転により、切込み深さを一定に保持し て加工するので、切込み深さを小さくしても高速加工が 可能であり、負荷を小さくできることから高速軸受によ る支持と高周波モータによる高速回転が可能となる。ま た、単一の小径ボールエンドミルを交換せずに使用する ため、軽量・小型のツールホルダが使用でき、遠心力に よるツール挟持部のゆるみや動バランスの問題を回避で きる。更に、X軸方向の往復動のみを高速にするので、 ボールエンドミルを回転駆動するヘッド部のみを軽量に することにより、高速送りと加速・減速特性を高め、比 較的小型の駆動装置により短時間で加速・減速すること ができる。更に、高速軸は往復動だけなので、工具の送 りピッチを細かくしても、NCプログラムの作成が単純 化され、コンピュータによりデータを作成しながらのリ アルタイムのNC制御が可能となる。また、単一の小径 ボールエンドミルを交換せずに高速回転・高速送りを長 時間連続させるため、運転中の発熱量がほぼ一定とな り、熱バランスが飽和してかえって安定した切削ができ

る。また、単一の小径ボールエンドミルで加工すること

から、工具交換による取付け誤差や工具寸法のバラツキの問題がなく、かつ粗加工と仕上加工の区別なく同一平面毎に高速で加工するので、工具の切込量の急変がなく、切込み深さを一定に保持しやすく、工具破損のおそれが少ない。

#### [0013]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の基本原理と本発明の好ましい実施形態を図面を参照して説明する。図1及び図2は、本願発明者等による実験結果であり、cBN(立方晶窒化ボロン)からなる高密度焼結切削工具により金型用鉄系金属材(ワーク)を超高速でミーリング加工した結果である。

【0014】図1は、切削速度を変化させた場合の切削長と磨耗量との関係を示している。ミーリング加工における従来の切削速度は200~500m/minであり、この試験では従来の5倍から10倍以上の速度で試験している。この図から、1000~3000m/minの速度範囲では、切削速度が高速になるほど磨耗量が少ない、すなわち高速域ほど工具寿命が延びる、という特異な特性を示している。

【0015】図2は、工具(小径ボールエンドミル)の回転速度を変化させた場合の図1と同様の図である。ミーリング加工における工具回転速度は、従来、3~4000rpmであり、この試験では従来の5倍から20倍の速度で試験している。この図から、3万5000rpm以上の回転速度では図1と同様に切削速度が高速になるほど磨耗量が少なくなる特性を示している。

【0016】図1及び図2の結果から、上記新規の特性を積極的に利用し、cBNからなる1本の小径工具を使用し、この工具を高速回転・高速送りすることにより、上述した種々の問題点を解決し、超高速ミーリングが可能となる。cBN以外にも耐熱性コーティングを施した工具材でも同様の特性を持たすことができる。

【OO17】図3は、ミーリング加工の将来展望を示す 模式図である。金型加工におけるミーリング加工は、そ の重要性から日々進歩しており、過去における30~5 Om/minの切削速度から現在では約200m/mi n前後にまで高速化されている。一方、送り(切削深) さ)は、高速化に伴いわずかに増加している。今後の技 術革新により、切削速度は近い将来には4~500m/ min、更に将来には約1000m/min前後の超高 速ミーリングが達成される見通しである。なお、切込 (切削深さ)は精密加工の必要性からむしろ小さくなる と考えられる。本発明は、かかる展望の基に超高速ミー リングを達成するための1手段を提供するものである。 【0018】図4は、本発明による方法を用いた超高速 ミーリング装置の全体構成図である。この図において、 本発明の超高速ミーリング装置10は、高耐熱性を有す る工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミル12と、

ボールエンドミル12を5~20万rpmの高速で回転

させる高周波モータ14と、高速回転するボールエンドミル12を支持する高速軸受16と、ボールエンドミル12を水平面内で直交するX軸及びY軸と鉛直なZ軸の3軸方向に移動させる3軸駆動装置18と、3軸駆動装置18を数値制御するNC制御装置20と、を備えている。鉛直なZ軸はこの図のようにテーブル面を動かす方式と、X軸のスライド部21を上下方向に動かす方式とがある。なおこの図で1は、ワーク(被切削材)である。

【0019】ボールエンドミル12には、高密度焼結cBNを使用する。新しい切削工具材料として登場したcBN(立方晶窒化ボロン)は、耐熱性があり靱性が高く、チッピング発生が少なくなっている。この高密度cBN工具を用いた上述の試験により、ダイス鋼で1000~1500m/minの超高速ミーリングが可能である。なお、ボールエンドミル12は、cBN以外の高耐熱性を有する工具材であってもよい。例えば、通常の超硬合金母地に多層のセラミックコーティングを施した工具、又はセラミック工具を改良したものであってもよい。

【〇〇2〇】ボールエンドミル12は、この図ではZ軸 を中心に回転し、高速軸受16を介して支持台に取り付 けられ、この支持台がX軸方向に高速に往復動するよう になっている。金型の表面仕上げでは先端が2~10m m程度の小径のボールエンドミルが最も適している。ま た、この小径ボールエンドミル12で上述した高速の切 削速度を実現するには、主軸の回転数は5~20万 г р mを必要とする。この高速回転を実現するために、本発 明の装置は、高周波モータ14と高速軸受として空気軸 受16を用いている。この構成によれば、小径ボールエ ンドミル12を高速回転させるので、一刃当たりの切込 み量は微小であり、切削抵抗が小さいことから、空気軸 受16による支持と高周波モータ14による高速回転が 可能となる。なお、高速軸受16は、空気軸受、磁気軸 受、或いはセラミックを用いた高速玉軸受であってもよ い。

【0021】3軸駆動装置18は、X軸のみが10~100m/minの高速で往復動できるようになっている。主軸の高速送りで急加速と急減速を実現し、しかも正確な位置決めを実現するには、主軸の可動部の軽量化が重要である。そのために本発明では、高速送り軸は、3軸のうち1軸のみ(X軸のみ)にしてその他の2軸(Y軸と2軸)は低速送りとする。なお、図4において、3軸駆動装置18はガントリー型であるが、本発明はこれに限定されず、その他の形式の縦型或いは横型であってもよい。またX軸の高速往復動は、ボールスクリューを使うのが一般的であるが、リニアモータ駆動による、ことが好ましい。

【0022】上述した構成により、高速送りと加速・減速特性を高め、比較的小型の駆動装置により短時間で加

速・減速することができる。また、切削抵抗が小さいことから、高速送り軸(X軸)は軽量化し多少の剛性低下があってもよい。これにより、高速加工ができるにもかかわらず、装置を比較的軽量化し、コストを低減することができる。

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【0023】図5は、本発明による型の高速切削加工方法を模式的に示す図である。この図において、(A)は側面断面図であり、ワーク1に対する小径ボールエンドミル12のX軸及びZ軸の動きを示している。また、

(B) は平面図であり、ワーク1に対する小径ボールエンドミル12のX軸及びY軸の動きを示している。更に(C) は同一平面内における小径ボールエンドミル12の軌跡を模式的に示している。

【0024】図5に示すように、本発明の方法によれば、高耐熱性を有する工具材からなる単一の小径ボールエンドミル12を5~20万rpmの高速で回転させ、ボールエンドミル12を水平に10~100m/minの高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部で往復方向に直交する方向に水平面内で所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いで鉛直方向にボールエンドミル12を所定の切込み深さで縦送りし、これにより、単一の小径ボールエンドミルの高速回転と高速往復動により3次元型形状を加工する。

【0025】すなわち、NC制御装置20により、単一の小径ボールエンドミル12をX軸方向に高速で往復動させ、かつ往復動の両端部でY軸方向に所定の切込み量で横移動させて、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで切削し、次いでZ軸方向にボールエンドミルを所定の切込み深さで縦送りするようになっている。なお、切削加工により発生する切削屑は、粉末状となるため、真空吸引或いはエアーブロアで容易に処理することができる。

【0026】この構成により、切削のNCデータが1軸の往復送りで被削面を塗り潰す方式となる。これは丁度、光造形(Laser Stereo Lithography)における光ビームの走査プログラムと一致し、そのソフトウェアをそのまま活用できる。更に、金型表面の3次元CADデータから直ちに切削のNCデータをリアルタイムで直接得ることもできる。従って、本発明によりNCデータを得る時間を大幅に短縮すると共に、NCデータが増大する問題点も克服することができる。

【0027】更に、1本の工具のみで金型全ての面を切削するため、工具交換による誤差は生ぜず、更に工作機械の熱変形による精度不良の問題も、ほとんど解決できる。また、工具は1本しか使用しなくても、金型加工に付随する数々の穴開け加工もボールエンドミルのヘリカル送りにより任意の穴加工が可能である。

【0028】図6は、本発明による型の高速切削加工方法の別の実施形態を示す模式図である。この実施形態では、ワーク1の同一面内での高速往復動切削の前に、同一面内を同一の切込み深さで外周輪郭2の等高線に沿っ

て相対的に低速送りで切削し、次いで高速で往復動切削 3を行う。その他の点では、図5と同様である。この方法により、外周輪郭2の切削を、相対的に低速送りで切削するため、NCデータに追随でき、かつプログラムも簡単に自動でリアルタイムに生成することができる。に 往復加工3のみでは最初のパス時に図7 (A)高速送りが困難になるため工具負荷が大きくなう高速送りが困難になるが、高速送りの前に、先ず高線による行きの後の高速送り時の加工が図7 (B)に示すより、その後の高速送り時の加工が図7 (B)に示すよりに溝加工ではなくなるため、切削負荷を大幅に低減による行き過ぎを回避し、 外周輪郭2の等高線に沿って送るため、外周全面の少なくとも同方向の表面粗さが大幅に向上する。また、高速送り時の急速停止による行き過ぎを回避し、工具停止位置誤差の影響をなくすことができる。

【 O O 2 9 】なお、本発明は上述した実施例に限定されるものではなく、本発明の要旨を逸脱しない範囲で種々変更できることは勿論である。

#### [0030]

【発明の効果】上述したように、本発明の型の高速切削加工方法とこの方法を用いた超高速ミーリング装置は、従来の金型加工における種々の問題点を解決し、切削工具の回転速度と送り速度を大幅に高めることができ、これにより金型加工時間を大幅に短縮して金型製作や新商品開発のリードタイムを短縮するばかりでなく、金型コストの削減と金型精度の向上に大きく貢献することができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】切削速度を変化させた場合の切削長と磨耗量と の関係図である。

【図2】工具の回転速度を変化させた場合の切削長と磨耗量との関係図である。

【図3】ミーリング加工の将来展望を示す模式図である。

【図4】本発明による方法を用いた超高速ミーリング装置の全体構成図である。

【図5】本発明による型の高速切削加工方法を模式的に 示す図である。

【図6】本発明による型の高速切削加工方法の別の実施 形態を示す模式図である。

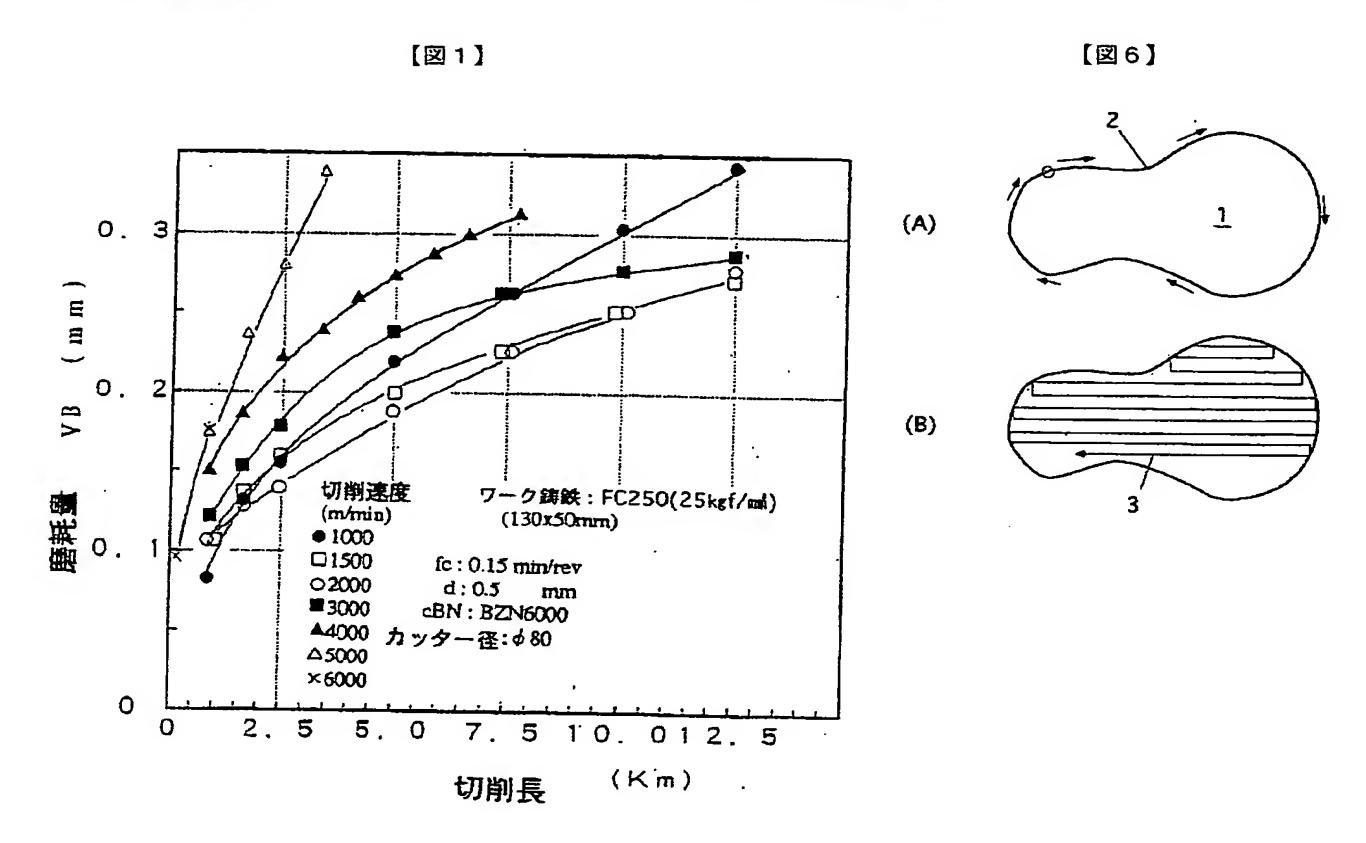
【図7】ボールエンドミルによる切削領域を示す図である。

#### 【符号の説明】

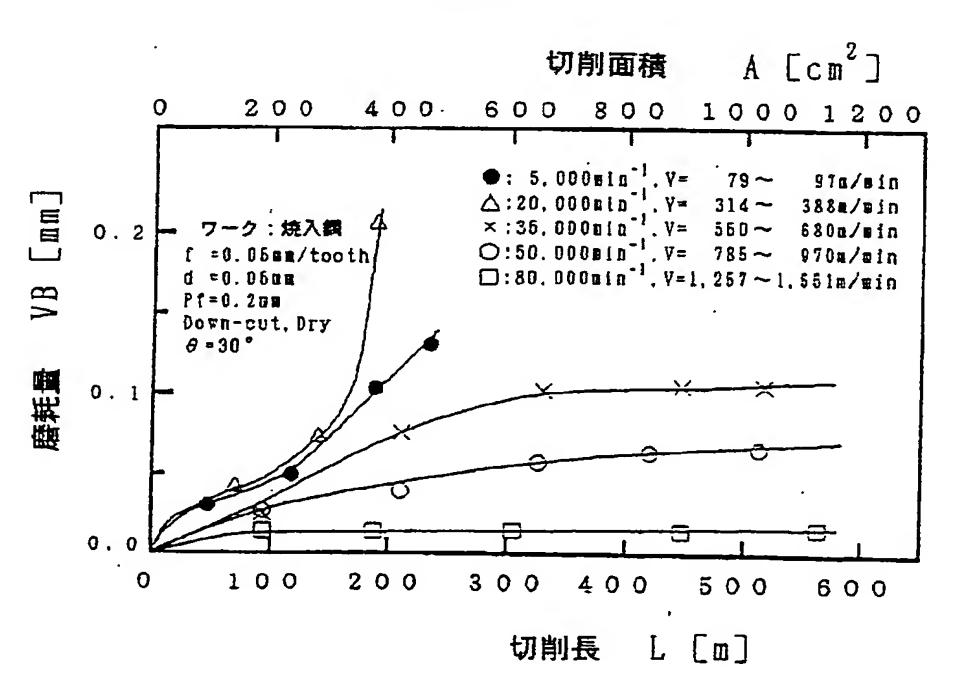
- 1 ワーク
- 2 外周輪郭切削
- 3 往復動切削
- 10 超高速ミーリング装置
- 12 小径ボールエンドミル
- 14 高周波モータ
- 16 高速軸受(空気軸受)

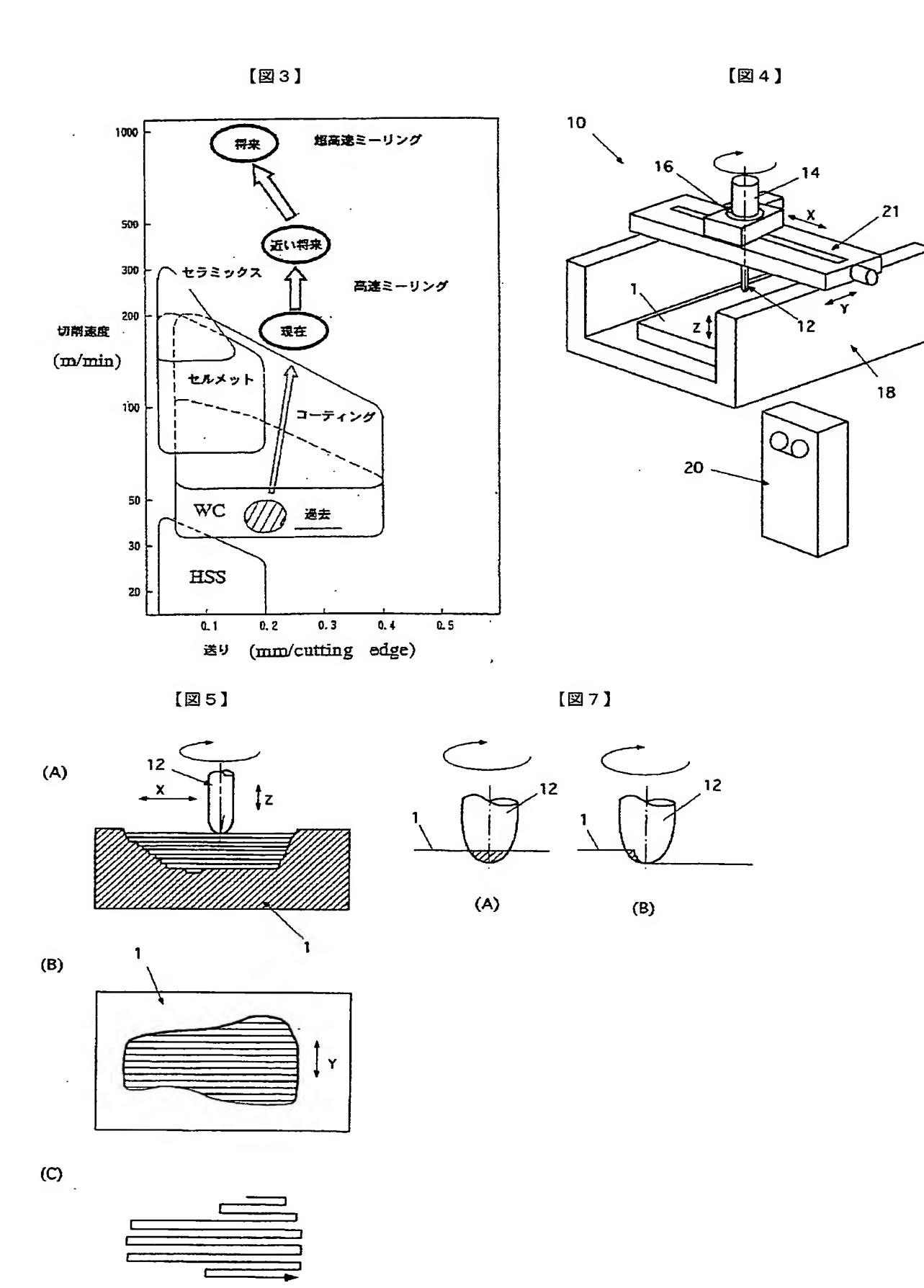
18 3軸駆動装置

20 NC制御装置



[図2]





#### フロントページの続き

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